

REMARKS:

In the outstanding Office Action, the Examiner rejected claims 1, 2, 4-8, 10-14 and 16-18. Claims 1, 2, 7, 8, 13 and 14 are amended herein, and new claim 19 is added. Claims 3, 9 and 15 remain cancelled. No new matter is presented. Thus, claims 1, 2, 4-8, 10-14 and 16-19 are pending and under consideration. The rejections are traversed below.

REJECTION UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 103(a):

Claims 1, 2, 4-8, 10-14 and 16-18 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over various combinations of: U.S. Patent No. 5,938,725 (Hara) in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,878,230 (Weber) and U.S. Patent No. 6,671,718 (Meister).

Hara extracts an e-mail address from an e-mail based on a keyword input by a user and allows the user to select a destination e-mail address from a list of candidate destination e-mail addresses (see, col. 5, line 64 through col. 6, line 6). However, Hara is limited to retrieving an e-mail address based on manual input of the keyword by the user and requires individual selection of e-mail addresses depending on the keyword input.

Weber is directed to allowing an e-mail message originator to control routing of the e-mail message by allowing the originator to specify destination addresses (see, col. 5, lines 18-23). That is, Weber is limited to routing e-mail messages based on sender or originator specified addresses.

Meister is directed to alerting a sender of a message when a computer initiates sending of an unauthorized message. For example, a dialog box is displayed when an unauthorized message is about to be sent to alert a user and includes resolving client alias information used for delivery (see, col. 4, lines 55-67).

In contrast, the present invention broadcasts an e-mail to destinations designated in a mailing list upon determining that a reply destination address in the e-mail is in the mailing list. For example, a received e-mail having a destination address of terminal A is broadcast to terminals B and C when it is determined that the destination address of terminal A is in the mailing list having addresses of terminals B and C stored therein.

Independent claims 1, 2, 7, 8, 13 and 14 recite judging whether "a reply destination mail is an address of a mailing list capable of broadcasting the same E-mail to a plurality of destinations at one time by a predetermined single mail address". The present invention "automatically extracts the at least one mail address contained in the text of the E-mail received"

when the reply destination mail address is judged to be the address of the mailing list and does not extract any mail address when "the reply destination mail address is not the address of the mailing list" (see claims 1, 2, 7, 8, 13 and 14).

This, for example, enables the present invention to reduce operations associated with individually transmitting the same e-mail to multiple destinations by determining whether a reply destination address is "an address of a mailing list capable of broadcasting the same E-mail to a plurality of destinations at one time by a predetermined single mail address", as recited in each of independent claims 1, 2, 7, 8, 13 and 14 (see, Mlist@sample.fujitsu.com.jp" in FIG. 6 of the present application).

It is submitted that the independent claims are patentable over the cited references.

For at least the above-mentioned reasons, claims depending from independent claims 1 and 5-11 are patentably distinguishable over the cited references. The dependent claims are also independently patentable. For example, claim 5 recites, "a processing unit which stores, if the mail address extracted from the text of the E-mail received is not registered in the mail address book, a name of this unregistered mail address as a name unknown in the mail address book in a format of corresponding to the mail address". The cited references do not teach or these features of claim 5.

Therefore, withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

NEW CLAIM:

New claim 19 is added to recite, "broadcasting the electronic mail to each of the e-mail terminal devices corresponding to the designated destination addresses of the mailing list using a single mail address in accordance with the determination [of] whether a reply destination address included in the destination addresses of the mailing list".

The cited references do not teach or suggest the above features of new claim 19. Therefore, it is respectfully submitted that new claim 19 is patentably over the cited references.

CONCLUSION:

There being no further outstanding objections or rejections, it is submitted that the application is in condition for allowance. An early action to that effect is courteously solicited.

If there are any formal matters remaining after this response, the Examiner is requested to telephone the undersigned to attend to these matters.

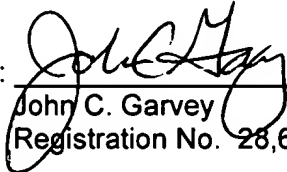
Serial No. 09/587,565

If there are any additional fees associated with filing of this Amendment, please charge the same to our Deposit Account No. 19-3935.

Respectfully submitted,

STAAS & HALSEY LLP

Date: 10-6-05

By: 
John C. Garvey
Registration No. 28,607

1201 New York Ave, N.W., Suite 700
Washington, D.C. 20005
Telephone: (202) 434-1500
Facsimile: (202) 434-1501